INCOMING TELEGRAM

Department of State

ACTION COPY

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Control: 16017
Rec'd: November 28, 1957
1:43 a.m.

FROM: Tripoli

TO: Secretary of State

NO: 356, November 27, 6 p.m.

DEPARTMENT OF STATE A/CDC/MR
REVIEWED BY G.M. Ray DATE 5/6/82
PORTIONS DENIED AS INDICATED

NOV 29 1957 AM 8 24
AF MESSAGE CENTER

SENT DEPARTMENT 356; REPEATED INFORMATION LONDON 45, BENGHAZI UNNUMBERED.

Re Department telegram 399 and Embassy telegram 338.

Accompanied by MAAG Chief Sachs, I called on Defense Minister Siddiq Muntasir November 25. Conversation lasted for hour and a half. His attitude best described as "extremely affable".

I opened conversation by suggesting that it would perhaps be useful him if I were to outline history of Libyan-American discussions concerning arms assistance which had taken place since I came to Libya three years ago, since he had been absent from Libya during much of this time as Ambassador to Washington and Cairo and since, in any event, he had held position of Federal Defense Minister only during recent weeks.

Muntasir replied by first stressing how much he had enjoyed talking to Senator Mansfield at dinner recently at my house and then by expressing real interest in hearing my account.

I then reviewed in great detail Libyan-American discussions concerning arms, up to and including my conversation with Prime Minister on November 20. I outlined with care responsibilities United States was prepared assume subject desires GOL. I stressed particularly importance of defining mission of Libyan Army as basic step in determining its size, type of organization, and type equipment.

Upon completion my recital, Muntasir thanked me warmly for informing him on certain aspects of question with which he had previously been unfamiliar. He stated that he was extremely well pleased with progress being made by MAAG and Libyan Army Staff in planning for receipt and use of United States arms for

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for increment one thousand men and much impressed with quality MAAG personnel whom United States had sent Libya. He said that he desired full dock-side military ceremony upon occasion of unloading of arms on November 27 and that ceremony should emphasize "dignity and calm friendliness between two countries"

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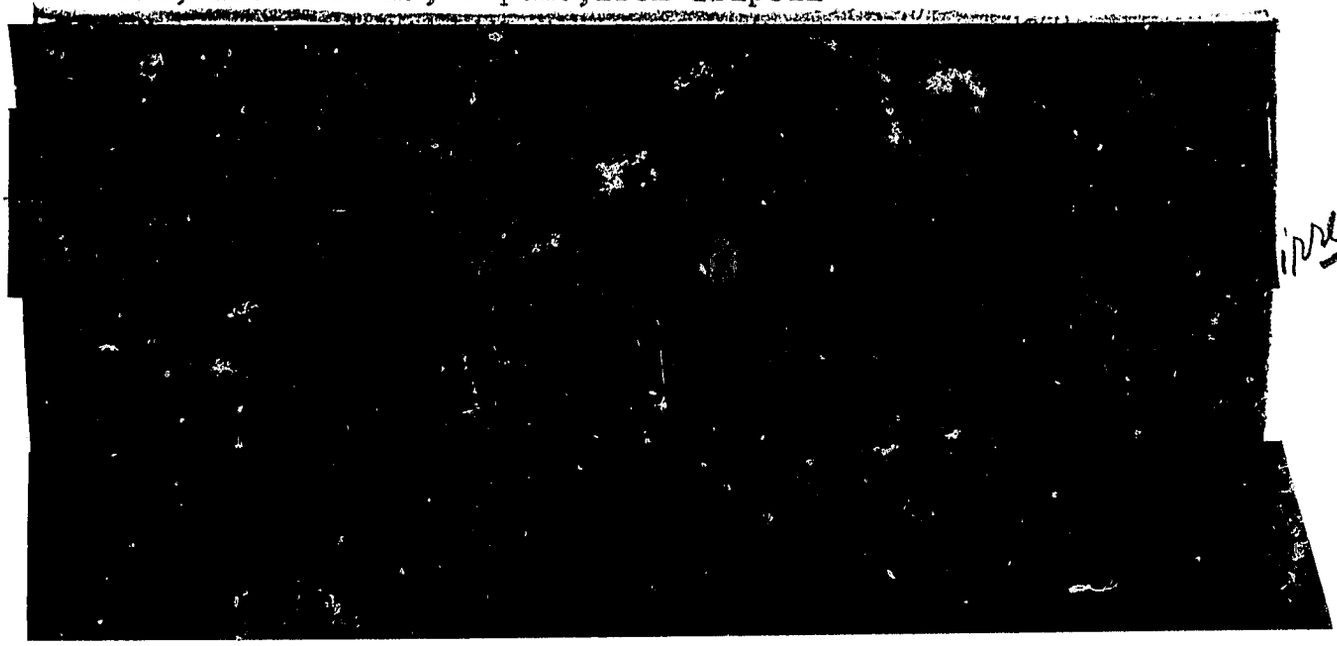

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